

# Tabernacle Fate Hinged on Volunteers

26 July 1984

HEBER CITY, July 20 (LRJ) R. J. McCormick, Tabernacle Building Manager, submitted a report to Councilman Louis R. Jackson, concerning the Heber City Tabernacle refurbishment.

It is the desire of the City Council that, if possible, the building should be used. On the other hand, no money has been budgetted or allocated for its improvement, but the outside of the building and grounds maintenance is paid for out of the public parks budget.

The attempt to refurbish and use the building is based strictly on donated time, labor and money and a desire and willingness of citizens to step forward as individuals or organizations to say, "Here we are. Tell us what you need and want done." So far, response to requests for volunteers has amounted to two persons, one to the Heber City Offices (654-0757) and another to Councilman Jackson (654-4173.)

Mr. McCormick's observations regarding the tabernacle and his recommendations "for minimal action which I consider necessary prior to use or occupancy" are: All plaster be removed (on the ceiling above the stage and equipment area) by barring method. That

action would require the use of portable scaffolding. He then recommends the ceiling being re-plastered or a false ceiling being installed.

He noted that weakness because in that area the plaster "is falling from the lath and due to the size and weight of the plaster and height of the ceiling (approx. 30 ft.) this is hazardous to both personnel and equipment."

He indicated that "practicability and cost should determine course of action."

Mr. McCormick recommends "a complete examination of all flooring and floor supports and a load factor report submitted." He stated that "sections of the flooring in the seating area have recently been replaced as a result of rot, caused by lack of underfloor air circulation." It was high understanding that circulation has been restored.

The third recommendation was that all roofing and roof supports be inspected by a licensed roofing contractor to determine roof stability.

He concluded his report by saying the above items "are priorities to assure safety to occupants and to satisfy liability obligations of the city."

Mr. McCormick seemed to think

that if no major problems were found on the mentioned items that a check-out of plumbing and electrical systems and a general clean-up should commence.

His report will be presented to the City Council at its next meeting on July 25. At that time, suggestions may be made about how the inspections might be accomplished and determinations made on the project. If the inspections are not made and there are faults, the Tabernacle could go the way of the Midway School, by default. If inspections are made and faults are found but not corrected, the same results could happen. If repairs are needed, the question must be answered, "How and at what and who's expense."

"Those who determined the saving of the landmark will certainly step forward to continue its existence. Those who find it a financial plague may just sit back and hope that no rescue will materialize," said Councilman Jackson. "But, surely if nothing is done, the building will eventually be a tomb of decay on the inside while, red stones, weatherworn and emblematic, still spire to heaven on the outside, until the roof falls in."



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# Heber Tabernacle- A Thing of Beauty

19 July 1984

Letter to the Editor

I would like to make a few comments about the editorial in the July 12th edition of the Wasatch Wave.

I couldn't believe the comment about the "Heber Tabernacle being a dilapidated eye-sore, saved by well meaning individuals."

I would say that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. To me the Tabernacle is a thing of beauty. A reminder of the labors of our pioneer heritage and instead of an eye-sore it is a sight for sore eyes. After a long trip away from this valley it is like a welcome home. This little town is a little different from hundreds of others because it stands there in dignity and beauty.

What else do we have in our town that is even worth a second glance? Maybe another convenience store or service station would be nice on that corner?

We have many senior citizens who have made their contributions in their youth and now enjoy a retirement. This senior citizen has served our community well and just being there with its grandeur and distinction is enough. It owes us nothing. We have the green grass and the beautiful old trees that add to the dignity of the building.

For those who do not know the facts, you will be interested to know that except for those "few well meaning individuals" mentioned, the Heber Stake Center

would be on that corner with a beautiful parking lot. The trees would be gone and the Senior Citizen's Center would be only a memory and a part of the oil and yellow stripe beauty.

I say, "how about a standing ovation to those city officials and dedicated individuals who worked so hard to provide and raise money for an alternate site for the Stake Center.

I feel that Hyrum Smith does a good job of keeping the grounds very presentable. The grass is mowed and watered. There are flowers and shade and peace. In fact, the only eye-sore I could detect is the terrible condition of the sidewalks and the curb and gutters on that whole block.

The city and its citizens should certainly be grateful that this valuable piece of property was deeded over to the city. Maybe a little upkeep would add to the beauty? It certainly isn't the only vacant building on Main Street.

If we are smart enough to take care of what we have, someone with good ideas and money will grab the opportunity to really make something out of it.

Even in its neglect that "preserved relic" (as it was labeled) will probably be around a lot longer than the editors of the Wave.

Lavon Provost  
Heber City, Utah  
Home of the Heber Tabernacle



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